

Weekly Update--12 Dec 2008

Greetings from Tyler,

I'd like to lead off with great news! We were informed just over a week ago that staunch member and dear friend Martin Qually of Calgary, Alberta was in the hospital and not expected to live. Yesterday, in a turn of events that is nothing short of miraculous, he called me here at the office letting me know that he is home and feeling much better than he has in a very long time! Many of you, having heard of Martin's plight had no doubt offered prayers on his behalf and will be relieved and elated to hear of his amazing recovery from severe heart trouble and pneumonia. Certainly there are many others who are suffering with serious maladies for whom we must continue to pray.

All other news this week has been overshadowed by the shocking national scandal involving the Illinois governor and the reported attempt to "monetize" the United States Senate seat being vacated by the president elect. Regardless of your politics, you can't help but be both appalled and saddened to see our nation, and very likely the incoming administration tainted with outright corruption at its very outset. At a time when our nation is facing a never-ending litany of crises, domestic and international, the last thing America needs is a legal crisis swirling around the incoming administration.

Another shoe drops almost daily in the economic calamity that grips the United States and reverberates around the world. Bailout fever reigns in our nation's capitol as our leaders pursue one "emergency remedy" after another that undermine the very basis of America's economic integrity. The logic we've all heard time and again is that these initiatives that break every rule of our free capitalist society must be enacted on an emergency basis to keep the United States and the rest of the developed world from descending into a ruinous depression. More distressing yet is the projection that the depression we hope to avoid will only be made worse by the unprecedented government economic interventions. As bad as the situation facing U.S. finance and industry seems, it may be only the tip of the iceberg as cities, states, and other sectors as yet unidentified slide toward bankruptcy.

Meanwhile, relations between India and Pakistan are beyond tense in the wake of the recent Islamic terrorist attacks in Mumbai. Pakistan issued an official statement this week stating that it is "ready for war" with India if tensions continue to escalate, and as the world is acutely aware, both have extensive operable nuclear arsenals.

President Mubarak of Egypt made the alarming statement that Iran is working to "devour the Arab states." His statement comes amid demonstrations in Iran calling for Mubarak to be hung amid chants for "death to Israel" and "death to America." Iran has established significant influence through Hezbollah in Lebanon and its proxies in Gaza. The Iranian relationship with Syria is also of significant concern. Is this a forerunner of the "king of the South" of Bible prophecy?

In the European realm of power and politics, the EU has just pushed through a new set of agreements relating to "climate change" under French President Sarkozy in advance of Jan. 1 when the EU Presidency is due to go to Czech President Vaclav Klaus. Klaus was not amused, and called the urgent move to enact "climate change" agreements a "silly luxury."

The UN is coincidentally sponsoring a "global warming" conference that got under way this week in Poland in the shadow of reports from some 650 respected scientists who now believe that "global warming" hysteria is just that, and not borne out by scientific data. Many quotes from the dissenting scientists are documented on the website of the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public works, and very enlightening if not downright entertaining. It's called the "worst scientific scandal in history..." by a Japanese PhD on the UN's panel. Global warming indoctrination represents, "A blatant lie put forth by the media" according to a U.S. Government Atmospheric Scientist. And the quotes go on and on from imminent scientists and scholars from

around the world. And if you don't believe them, you might check the weather map! Even the Chairman of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) admitted to the Associated Press, "There is no clear evidence that global warming is an imminent danger to the world..." before going on to recommend further cuts in greenhouse emissions. You might also enjoy reading Murray Allatt's comments in this week's Update from Australia.

And, as often seems to be the case, the "global warming" conference coincides with record cold, snow and ice in latitudes utterly unaccustomed to such weather such as Houston and New Orleans. Undeterred, the incoming U.S. administration has signaled that it is anxious to cooperate with the UN and the Europeans in an effort to pass laws regulating our energy production and usage here in the United States. It represents possibly the greatest movement to date toward turning over a major aspect of U.S. sovereignty to the UN and to Europe.

Mrs. Jean Robertson has been out of the office, ill for a couple of days, and we'll have to wait until the next week for the TV response report for the Garner Ted Armstrong program. I can tell you that we've had a very successful year by every standard, including TV response, letter response and financial support. Our thanks go out to all of you for assisting us in the conduct of God's work. We'll give you a year's end report with those statistics in the next couple of weeks.

The sun is setting, and a Sabbath has arrived.

May God guide and direct us all.

Mark Armstrong

PS Note: No Web Report this week as Mr. Cumming is out of town.